Yelp's websites, average 108 million visitors per month, and users have posted over 42 million reviews to them.

- 3. A vast majority of the ratings, reviews, and photos posted on Defendant Yelp's websites are created and supplied by a large and ever-growing stable of non-wage-paid writers. This lawsuit seeks to recover unpaid compensation for Plaintiffs and other similarly situated workers who have been employed by Defendant in the United States.
- 4. Defendant Yelp is an American online media company and weblog network, based in San Francisco, CA. Defendant has been listed in major news publications as being among the most financially successful weblogs in America. One article in particular attributes Defendant's huge profit margin to its low operating costs, which is in large part attributable to the non-wage-paid labor of its workers. Defendant, by virtue of its management and control over the nature of the wages and work of its employees, is an "employer" under applicable labor law.
- 5. Yelp earns its income by selling advertising on its site, the content of which is created free-of-wages by hordes of solicited posters, in violation of the Federal Labor Standard Act ("FLSA").
- 6. This is a class-action complaint under Section 216(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") based on Defendant's policies and practices of refusing to pay wages to its workers by designating them variously as "reviewers" or "Yelpers" or "independent contractors" or "interns" or "volunteers" or "contributors" even though they are performing vital work that inures to the benefit of Yelp's various business enterprises. Defendant could not exist, nor make its enormous returns, without its domination and control over non-wage writers. One of Defendant's co-founders stated: "The site wasn't set up to serve businesses, it was meant to serve the consumer. Without the community of reviewers, there is no Yelp."
- 7. Business journal commentators have compared said business practices to a 21st Century galley slave ship with pirates banging the drum to keep up the fast pace and to fill the pockets of

their stockholders with treasure. . . and with "overhead that would shame an antebellum plantation." "Yelp's business model profits off the unpaid work of reviewers".

- 8. Defendant's business model and slip-shod approach to its policies and practices have become suspect in both the public forum, as witnessed by the proliferation and popularity of such websites as *yelp-sucks.com*; and within the courtrooms.<sup>1</sup>
- 9. The practice of classifying employees as "reviewers" or "Yelpers" or "Elites" or "independent contractors" or "interns" or "volunteers" or "contributors" to avoid paying wages is prohibited by federal law, which requires employers to pay all workers who provide material benefit to their employer, at least the minimum wage. Defendant, by virtue of its management and control over the nature of the wages and work of its writers, is an "employer" under applicable labor law.
- 10. Additionally, Defendant, has been, and continues to be, unjustly enriched by the unpaid contributions provided by these plaintiffs and all those similarly situated. Unjust enrichment is based upon society's interest in preventing the injustice of a person's retaining a benefit for which no payment has been made to the provider.
- 11. The named plaintiffs, and persons similarly situated, are persons who each worked a substantial number of hours for Defendant over a number of years, and were not paid a single cent for their work. The work they performed -- writing, researching, editing, lodging reviews, upgrading prior reviews, and generally promoting the site -- is central to Defendant's business model as a publisher.
  - 12. On information and belief, Defendant employs 10s of thousands other "reviewers" in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Oregon Superior Court Judge Henry Kantor stated that Yelp's business model is "offensive" and "highly problematic." California Superior Court Judge Peter Doft, characterized Yelp's actions as "the modern day version of the Mafia going to stores and saying 'You wanna not be bothered ... you wanna not have incidents in your store? Pay us protection money'."

the same way, paying them nothing or underpaying them and utilizing their services to publish its content on the internet, an enterprise that generates significant amounts of revenue for Defendant. Plaintiffs ask this Court to order Defendant to follow the law and compensate its workers pursuant to FSLA for the necessary services that they render to Defendant.

## II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 13. This Court has original jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, and 1367, because the action involves a federal statute, the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216
- 14. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b)(2), because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims asserted herein occurred in this judicial district; 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2), and (d).

### III PARTIES

- 15. Plaintiff DR. ALLEN PANZER, is an individual domiciled in Houston TX. who has written approximately 70 reviews for Defendants since November 2007. Dr. Panzer has 20 so called "friends" on Yelp, consisting of other Yelp writers, readers and employees. Defendant unlawfully misclassified this plaintiff and the members of the Class as non-wage-paid employees, failed to pay them a minimum wage and overtime payments, and otherwise violated their legal rights as set forth herein. Said party plaintiff has given consent in writing to become such a party and such consent shall be filed in the Court.
- 16. Plaintiff AMY SAYERS is an individual domiciled in Portland, OR, who has written over 500 reviews for defendants since 2006; has been awarded the prestigious "First To Review" and "Review Of The Day" honors; and been designated an "Elite" reviewer by Defendants<sup>2</sup>. In order to maintain her "Elite" status, Ms. Sayers was often directed to write more reviews if in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Yelp defines "Elite" status as "a designation awarded writers who supply superior intellectual, social, and/or economic status and are deemed the best or most skilled writers"

Defendant's opinion her production seemed to slack off. Substantially all of her labors for Yelp are within this judicial district. Ms. Sayers was fired from her position with no warning, a flimsy explanation, and no opportunity for recourse or appeal rights. Her licence to write reviews was revoked; the awards she had attained were taken away; and her reviews were removed from the website, and she has been refused access to her own writings. Defendant unlawfully misclassified this plaintiff and the members of the Class as non-wage-paid employees, failed to pay them a minimum wage and overtime payments, and otherwise violated their legal rights as set forth herein. Said party plaintiff has given consent in writing to become such a party and such consent shall be filed in the Court.

- 17. Plaintiff, LILY JEUNG is an individual domiciled in Los Angeles, CA, who has written approximately 1,100 reviews for Defendants; until recently had 5,000 "followers" (which is the maximum amount possible), with a "waiting list" of at least 100 individuals in line to become her "followers"; been awarded the prestigious "First To Review" and "Review Of The Day" honors; and for the previous 5 years has been designated by Yelp as an "Elite" reviewer. Substantially all of her labors for Yelp are within this judicial district. In order to maintain her "Elite" status, Ms. Jeung was often directed to write more reviews if in Yelp's opinion her production seemed to slack off. Ms. Jeung was fired from her position with no warning, a flimsy explanation, and no opportunity for recourse or appeal rights. Her licence to write reviews was revoked; the awards she had attained were taken away; and her reviews were removed from the website, and she has been refused access to her own writings. Defendant unlawfully misclassified this plaintiff and the members of the Class as non-wage-paid employees, failed to pay them a minimum wage and overtime payments, and otherwise violated their legal rights as set forth herein. Said party plaintiff has given consent in writing to become such a party and such consent shall be filed in the Court.
- 18. Plaintiff, DARREN WALCHESKY is an individual domiciled in Pittsburgh PA, who has written over 1,200 reviews, as well as 238 follow-up and updated reviews for Defendants. His

writings have garnered 13,536 "Useful" votes, 10,469 "Funny" votes, and 11,854 "Cool" votes from Defendant's audience of writers and readers. Mr. Walchesky has received 611 "First to Review" awards from Yelp; has taken and submitted 2,122 photographs which have been published at Defendant's discretion; and was often directed to write more reviews if in Yelp's opinion his production seemed to slack off. Additionally, Mr. Walchesky hosted at least one social and instructional event for fellow Yelp writers at the bequest of Defendants. Defendant unlawfully misclassified this plaintiff and the members of the Class as non-wage-paid employees, failed to pay them a minimum wage and overtime payments, and otherwise violated their legal rights as set forth herein. Said party plaintiff has given consent in writing to become such a party and such consent shall be filed in the Court.

- 19. The defendant, YELP, INC., is a corporate entity duly formed and incorporated pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware and with its principal place of business in San Francisco, CA. Yelp operates the website *yelp.com*, as well as various others.
- 20. Defendant has the power to set wages and wage policies for its employees, which in conjunction with its detailed policies and procedures and terms and conditions, Defendant controls the behavior of its workers and the placement and content of the their work product. Defendant is a covered employer within the meaning of the FLSA. At all relevant times, Defendant is legally responsible for the violations of the FLSA committed by Defendant and alleged in this Complaint.

## IV. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 21. Plaintiffs bring this action under Fed. Rules Of Civ. Pro. 23(a) and (b) as a class action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated for the purpose of asserting the claims alleged in this Complaint on a common basis.
  - 22. Plaintiffs in all claims, pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216, on behalf of themselves

and all similarly situated persons, were employees of Defendant, and were not paid wages for their work published on Defendant's website; each performed duties relating to the creation and promotion of content on behalf of Defendant, including but not limited to writing, researching, editing, lodging reviews, upgrading prior reviews, and generally promoting the site, during the period between four years prior to the filing of this Complaint and until the date of final adjudication of this action (the "FLSA Class").

- 23. Class action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system.
  - 24. Some Plaintiffs wrote reviews for Defendant regularly, while others wrote intermittently.
- 25. Plaintiffs were an indispensable and integral part of the success of the Defendant's business. Defendant's business model is dependent on the plaintiff writers.
- 26. The totality of the circumstances surrounding Plaintiffs' employment relationship with Defendant indicates economic and other dependence.
- 27. Although Plaintiffs do not know the exact size of the Class or the identities of all members of the Class, upon information and belief that information can readily be obtained during discovery. Plaintiffs believe that the Class includes thousands of persons who are widely geographically disbursed. Thus, the proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
  - 28. The claims of all members of the Class involve common questions of law and fact.
- 29. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of all other members of the Class, and Plaintiffs' interests do not conflict with the interests of any other member of the Class, in that Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class were subjected to the same unlawful conduct.
- 30. Plaintiffs are committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and have retained competent legal counsel experienced and knowledgeable in labor law.
- 31. Plaintiffs are adequate representatives of the Class and, together with its attorneys, are able to and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and its members.

- 32. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair, just, and efficient adjudication of the claims asserted herein. Joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable and, for financial and other reasons, it would be impractical for individual members of the Class to pursue separate claims.
- 33. Moreover, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of varying and inconsistent adjudications, and would unduly burden the courts.

### V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

34. While the allegations in this *Complaint and Jury Demand* are generally written in the past tense, they apply equally to Class Members who are currently employed by Defendants.

### A. Defendant Exploits a Vulnerable and Disposable Class of Workers

- 35. Defendant's business model is predicated entirely on the exploitation of Plaintiffs' work product in order for the company and its owners to earn approximately \$220 million annually. Its success is dependant upon the efforts of hordes of non-wage-paid reviewers and its ability to use those reviews as ready-made advertising-content to advertise businesses on their websites.
- 36. Defendant's enormous growth and preeminence as a publisher are directly attributable to its low operating costs, made possible by not paying wages to an entire class of workers and thereby also sidestepping payment of taxes, and other societal contributions.
- 37. By shirking its responsibilities to pay its workers, Defendant is in essence thumbing its nose both at their workers and the taxing authorities of all states and the U.S. Government.
- 38. Yelp has devised a system of cult-like rewards and disciplines to motivate its non-wage-paid writers to labor without wages or expense reimbursement, in violation of equitable principles and the FSLA, by offering such rewards as trinkets, badges, titles, praise, social promotion, free liquor, free food, and free promotional Yelp attire, such as red panties with "Make Me Yelp!"

stamped across its bottom.<sup>3</sup> Awards and public recognition are regularly offered for such activities as being the first to review a new business; frequently checking in with specific businesses; and for writing a certain number of reviews within a given time-frame. These motivational awards are offered by Defendant to its writers instead of just compensation in the form of wages. States one long-time Yelper, "It's kind of like a cult, except instead of Kool-Aid we drink alcohol,"

- 39. Yelp's parties have become regular and highly-anticipated events for its "Elite Squad", comprised of selected invitees based on the quality and quantity of their reviews, and help Yelp continue to push workers to compete for what have become coveted honors.
- 40. Other motivations besides bestowing prolific reviewers with the title "Elite" is the dubbing of individuals with such titles as "Duke" or "Duchess"; then "Baron" or "Baroness" (the ones with the most Dukedoms in their neighborhood); and finally crowning their active participants "King" or "Queen", the person with the most Dukedoms in a given city. These titles are used to generate and maintain interest and productivity of its writers in lieu of monetary compensation, as required by the FLSA.
- 41. Additional motivational awards offered by Yelp to its workers, including "Review of the Day"; "Review of the Week", "Review of the Month", "Look Who's Mouthing Off", and "Reviews We Like", are routinely used instead of payment of just compensation in the form of wages. These awards are treated as valuable commodities within the Yelp community, and by utilizing an award-and-punishment form of barter, Yelp is trying to avoid its responsibility to pay its workers a fair

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>"You can have fans. You can get the glory of personal thanks from chefs you've deified, or the smug satisfaction of hate mail from those you've savaged. You can hobnob with sous-chefs at food events. If your soul is for sale, you can cadge free drinks or meals. As a bonus, you might even get a sex life — and if so inclined, you can discuss it in detail, online, with fellow foodies." Journalist's summation after researching Yelp's success in motivating non-wage-paid writers to work in violation of their rights under the FLSA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>On its website, Defendant describes its "Elite Squad" as a way of "recognizing and rewarding Yelpers who are active evangelists and role models, both on and off the site".

wage, and to contribute its share of employment taxes.

#### B. "Right to Control" Test

- 42. One test used by Courts to determine an entity's relationship to its workers is the employer's right to control. The critical question in determining direction and control under this test is not the *actual* exercise of control or the *degree* of control by the employer, but whether the *right of* control exists.
- 43. Yelp urges its non-wage-paid writers to increase the volume of their production with such challenges as "100 Reviews in 100 Days", their pay being liquor, food, badges, trinkets, and titles. Additionally, Yelp promoters instruct the non-paid writers where to post their work product. When writers fail to follow Yelp's requests, they are corrected and counseled to move their work to a directed location. Yelp writers are also directed by Defendant to write more reviews at a faster pace if in Defendant's opinion its non-wage-paid writer production is declining.
- 44. While these and thousands of other similarly-situated plaintiffs worked for liquor, food, badges, trinkets, and titles, certain other writers within the company have been paid in wages; these include but are not limited to the 200,000 reviewers that Defendant admitted to in its SEC filing; the paid-with-wages "scouts" who open up new geographic areas for the company; "Community Managers" in each of the cities in which Yelp operates; and traditionally-salaried employees of Yelp, including the CEO, who has written more than 1,400 reviews on the site. This action seeks to have all writers for Defendant be paid in wages pursuant to the FLSA.
- 45. Another key factor in determining an employer's right to control is its ability to fire its workers. Defendant has, and exercises, the right to fire any worker at any time, with or without cause, with or without warning, with or without explanation or offering any recourse or formal appeal rights.
- 46. At least two named Plaintiffs, and numerous other similarly situated persons, were actually fired by Defendant; their badges and licenses were revoked; their status and reputation

sanctimoniously stripped away; and their extensive work product deleted from the system with no recourse or ability to recover it.

- 47. One plaintiff stated: "My situation is a little different. I left a negative review on Yelp regarding one of their advertisers. Not only was my review removed, but I also received an e-mail cancelling my Yelp account and stating that I could no longer write reviews or get access to any that I had written. I was fired by Yelp for supposedly breaking one of their rules, which I didn't".
- 48. By imposing strict guidelines and policies on its reviewers, Defendant exercises full control over the quality, tone, content, quantity, placement, and it's all-important star-rating system
- 49. These Plaintiffs, and other similarly situated persons, *did* actually work under the close scrutiny and prodding of Defendant and had to closely adhere to Defendant's contracts, content guidelines, terms of service, and other policy statements.
- 50. Additionally, writers and their work-product are used as pawns in Defendant's transparent strategy of utilizing the reviews as ammunition to punish some businesses and reward others. Defendant controls the content of its websites by unilaterally determining what kind of reviews it will use, and what kind it won't
- 51. Defendant controls its writers in the form of directives: An "elite" reviewer of long duration revealed that Defendant directly and through its "Community Managers" controls the writers with ethical standards, often by deleting "non-conforming" work; by chastising its writers for failing to follow Yelp rules; and dispensing so-called "guidelines" in form of directives.
- 52. In directives to his non-wage-paid workers, Yelp CEO, Jeremy Stoppelman, gives direct orders to non-wage-paid employees and has threatened that there would be dire consequences if they failed to obey him stating: "I make the decisions and I stand behind them". CEO Stoppelman further refers to "the measuring stick" and warns "there will be serious penalties to those that ignore us. The measuring stick is do you have enough independence to be able to criticize the business? If the person is a friend or you can't imagine a scenario where you could give them anything less than a

5 star review you're likely biased and shouldn't review the business. I would definitely not review any of your business networking contacts made through Ladies who Launch or the eWomenNetwork."

- 53. Defendant cajoles its troops: "By accepting this invitation, you'll be one of the voices and faces of Yelp Elite in essence our ambassadors both on and offline so all we ask is that you commit to keep "Yelping" about your favorite restaurants and clubs, your doctor, your mechanic, your hair salon, or really anything that's local and would help others to know about! We want you to keep telling your friends about Yelp and encourage them to invite their friends as well (the more people Yelping, the more useful and fun the site becomes). We also ask that you contribute positively to the site and do your part to set an example of what a stellar Yelper can and should be."
- 54. Plaintiffs report they must write glowing reviews of the venues that sponsor company events, where they are often offered free food, liquor, and use of the premises, under threat of losing their "elite" status<sup>5</sup>.
- 55. Defendant controls its reviews to pander to its advertisers. For instance, Defendant informed one of its writers that it was removing her reviews because it was based on her personal experience. It then told another writer that it was removing his reviews because they were NOT based on his personal experience. This odd conduct by Defendant is used to placate advertisers who might get upset by negative reviews, and then threaten to cancel their advertising.
- 56. One writer said: "I loved Yelp until I got an email from them saying they have taken off my photos due to the pictures being my 'personal experience' and that the reason behind taking off

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Yelp, at all times relevant had the right to control its non-wage-paid employees. At a business meeting of so called Yelp "Elites" held at a restaurant, one of the non-wage-paid employees because so intoxicated with the free liquor supplied by Yelp or its sponsor that she became unconscious. Rather than call for medical assistance for this life threatening condition, Yelp wage-paid employees controlled the intoxicated woman at the site, denying her medical rescue, and unsuccessfully searched for her identity with evidence of her age and her address. While the woman remained unconscious wage-paid employees of Yelp stayed with her until she finally became conscious again to mumble her address.

my photos is because it does not 'portray the business as a whole.' Well excuse me for showing other victims where their \$100 a night stay is worth. I'm sorry I was honest. Would it be better if I lied?"

- 57. Another reviewer admits that her two-star review (in which she says the restaurant "sucks") wasn't really because she hated the restaurant in fact, she thinks the proprietors have "a great thing going" but because in order to keep her "Elite" status, she must write reviews with every level of Yelp ratings, including one-and two-star ratings. This directly conflicts with Yelp's assurance to the SEC that it doesn't tell its reviewers how to rate businesses, as well as lends credence to the countless business owners who insist that Yelp manipulates the review system.
- 58. Defendant has admitted that it controls the content and placement of its reviews for the benefit of its business model:

"If we fail to filter or remove a significant amount of content that is biased, unreliable, or otherwise unhelpful, or if we mistakenly filter or remove a significant amount of valuable content, our reputation and brand may be harmed, users may stop using our products and our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

Our success depends on the quality of the reviews, photos and other content that we show on our platform, including whether they are helpful, up-to-date, unbiased, relevant, unique and reliable. If users do not value the content on our platform, they may stop or reduce the use of our products, and traffic to our website and on our mobile app will decline. If our user traffic declines, our advertisers may stop or reduce the amount of advertising on our platform.

As a result, our business could be negatively affected if we fail to obtain high quality content from our contributors, or if the content we display is

perceived to be unhelpful, out-of-date, biased, irrelevant, not unique or unreliable.

We must therefore ensure that our products and features are attractive to users, and encourage them to contribute. In addition, users who contribute content to our platform may provide content to our competitors or subsequently remove their content from our platform. If they do so, the value of our content may decline relative to other available products and services, and our business may be harmed."

### C. "Relative Nature Of the Business" Test

- 59. A secondary test used by Courts to determine an entity's relationship to its workers is the "relative nature of the business" test, the components of which include determining whether the principal retains pervasive control over the operation as a whole, and whether the worker's duties are an integral part of the operation.
- 60. Defendant retains pervasive control over the operation and content of its website in performing vital work that inures to the benefit of Yelp's various business enterprises. Defendant admits that it could not exist, nor make its enormous returns, without its domination and control over unpaid writers.
- 61. Plaintiffs duties are an integral part of Defendants' operation. One of Yelp's co-founders stated: "The site wasn't set up to serve businesses, it was meant to serve the consumer. Without the community of reviewers, there is no Yelp."
- 62. Defendant disseminated a public notice: "We love interns at Yelp! And since we are such a small, agile team, we can take on interns around the clock. If you are looking to gain experience at a cool start-up and do real work, then this is the place. Join us as an intern and have a real impact on our mobile apps, yelp.com or our services for business owners."

- 63. Defendant has paid some writers wages to write reviews for its websites, while a vast majority of its reviewers are paid with liquor, food, badges, trinkets, and titles. Not only must the wage-paid and non-wage-paid writers follow the exact same rules dictated by Defendant, but when looking at the profiles of the writers on Yelp's website, there is no distinction made between them, other than a rare "Scout" or "Ambassador" badge for a wage-paid writer. This discretionary method of paying some employees wages, but not others, is in violation of the FLSA.
- 64. One writer, who had been an advocate, promoter, educator, and regular contributor with numerous followers, stated that "I was Elite long before Pittsburgh had a community manager and Elite Squad parties. Back in 2007, Yelp actually paid people wages in Pittsburgh to write reviews to get the ball rolling. Silly me, I was doing it for free (i.e. non-FLSA-required wages)."

### VI. IMPACT OF VIOLATIONS

- 65. The misclassification of employees as something other than employees, whether they go by such monikers as volunteers, independent contractors, interns, contributors, free-lance writers, reviewers, elites or Yelpers, presents a serious problem for affected employees, employers, and to the entire economy. Misclassified employees are often denied access to critical benefits and protections such as, minimum wage, overtime, health insurance, retirement benefits and unemployment insurance to which they are entitled. Employee misclassification also generates substantial losses to the Treasury and the Social Security and Medicare funds, as well as to state unemployment insurance and workers compensation funds.
- 66. The Department of Labor's *Misclassification Initiative*, launched under the auspices of Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force, is making great strides in combating this pervasive issue and to restoring these rights to those denied them. In September 2011, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced a major step forward with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Under this agreement, the

agencies will work together and share information to reduce the incidence of misclassification of employees, to help reduce the tax gap, and to improve compliance with federal labor laws.

67. This Court must force Defendant, and other similarly-situated employers, to comply with Federal labor laws; this would send a clear message that private companies cannot rely on non-wage-paid laborers, to perform work that is the core of its business, and that they have a responsibility to uphold the spirit of the law. Further, Defendant's use of non-wage-paid employees gives it an unfair business advantage over its competitors.

# VII. <u>FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION</u> <u>ON BEHALF OF NAMED PLAINTIFFS,</u> <u>AND ALL OTHER PERSONS SIMILARLY SITUATED:</u> VIOLATIONS OF THE *FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT*

- 68. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of each and every one of the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 69. Defendant failed to pay these plaintiffs or any similarly-situated worker any compensation for the work and labor they performed for Defendant as employees of Defendant.
- 70. These Plaintiffs and all other similarly-situated workers are owed unpaid wages from Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207, and any other applicable statute or rule, in an amount which will be determined upon a review of Defendant's records and/or at the trial on this action.
- 71. The number of persons similarly situated to the individual plaintiffs, and the names of such persons, is unknown, but such persons, upon information and belief, number in the tensof-thousands, and such persons, who will be identified once discovery is had in this case upon the review of Defendant's records and upon such identification will be offered to "opt-in" to join with this action, are owed unpaid minimum wages from the defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207 in an amount which will be determined upon a review of the defendants' records

and/or at the trial of this action.

- 72. Defendants' violations of the FLSA were willful.
- 73. As a result of the foregoing, the individual plaintiffs seek judgment against the defendants on their own behalf and on behalf of those similarly situated who file written consents to joinder in this action for all unpaid minimum wages owed by the defendants to the plaintiffs and such other persons similarly situated pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§ 206, 207, together with an award of an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, and costs, interest, and attorney's fees, as provided for under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

#### VIII.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF NAMED PLAINTIFFS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS SIMILARLY SITUATED PURSUANT TO QUANTUM MERUIT

- 74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the allegations of each and every paragraph numbers 1-67 inclusive as though fully set forth herein.
- 75. Plaintiffs wrote, researched, edited, lodged reviews, upgraded prior reviews, and generally promoted Defendant's website based upon Yelp's inducement of trinkets, social status, liquor, food and other non-wage compensation.
- 76. Defendant utilized Plaintiffs' services to publish their content on the internet, an enterprise that generates two-hundred-and-twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) per year.
- 77. Defendant has failed to pay Plaintiffs just compensation of wages, benefits and reimbursement for the reviews they created.
- 78. As a result of the Defendant's failure and refusal to pay said commissions, Defendant has been unjustly enriched.
  - 79. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's failure or refusal to pay said

**CLASS-ACTION COMPLAINT** 

PRAYER FOR RELIEF WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on their own behalf and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons, seek the following relief: Unpaid wages; reimbursement of expenditures; and liquidated and statutory damages as permitted by law; Notice to be issued by the Court to all similarly situated persons; That other similarly situated, past or present writers and reviewers of Defendant be given the opportunity to join in this lawsuit as party-plaintiffs by filing written consents under the FLSA; Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; Reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action; and Such other relief as this Court shall deems proper. DATED: October 20, 2013 THE YELP CLASS-ACTION LAW FIRM By: Randy Rosenblatt, Esq. Attorneys for DR. ALLEN PANZER et al, and the proposed class 

**CLASS-ACTION COMPLAINT** 

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assigned to District Ju-	dge Dean D. Pregerson and t	he assigned
Magistrate Judge is Jay C. Gandhi		ac doorgrice
The case number on all docume	nts filed with the Court should read as follows:	
2:13-CV	7-7805-DDP (JCGx)	
•		
Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the U	nited States District Court for the Central District	of
California, the Magistrate Judge has been designa		
All discovery related motions should be n	oticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge.	,
	Clerk, U. S. District Court	
October 22, 2013	By <u>MDAVIS</u>	
Date	Deputy Clerk	
NOTI	CE TO COUNSEL	<u> </u>
	ens and complaint on all defendants (if a removal	action is
Subsequent documents must be filed at the follo	ving location:	
	Division Eastern Division Fourth St., Ste 1053 3470 Twelfth Street, Re a, CA 92701 Riverside, CA 92501	oom 134
Failure to file at the proper location will result i	n your documents being returned to you.	
CV-18 (08/13) NOTICE OF ASSIGNM	ENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES	•

Case 2:13-cv-07	805-D <b>DNH16</b>	ATESDISTRATI	OURT CIVIL	CENTILAL 2015 THE COVER SHEET	ici of &	LIFORNIA 4	Page	<b>12</b> #27
. L. (a) PLAINTIFFS ( Ch	eck box if you are repr	esenting yourself	)	DEFENDANTS	/ Check	box if you are re		And the same of
Dr. Allen Panzer, Amy Sayer themselves and all others si	s, Lify Jeung, and Damen milarly situated	Walchesky, on behalf o		Yelp, inc.	, area	DOX II YOU AI E (	chieseutkič	yoursett [] )
(b) Attorneys (Firm Name are representing yourself The Yelp Class Action Lawfe Randy Rosenblatt, Esq. 2419 East Harbor Bivd. #110 Ventura, CA 93001	i, provide same (nform im	one Number. If you ation.)		(b) Attorneys (Fin are representing )	n Name, Ad yourself, pro	idness and Telep ovide same info	phone Num mation.)	ber. If you
II. BASIS OF JURISDIC	TION (Place an X in c	ne box only.)	III. Cr	IZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL	PARTIES-For I	Muncity Co	eer Ook
1. U.S. Government		t Not a Party)	Citizen	Pace an A m one of	ox for plaint TF DEF X 1 1 1	in and one for of incorporated of of Business in t incorporated a	detendant) or Principal Pl his State nd Principal	ace PTF DEF
2. U.S. Government Defendant	4. Diversity ( of Parties in	Indicate Citizenship Item III)		or Subject of a Country	] 3 [] 3	of Business in / Foreign Nation		ПеПе
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X			ļ	-			···	. n.n.
Nortginal 2	Removed from State Court	3. Remanded from Appellate Court			ansferred from	vootales	. Multi- District Itigation	
V. REQUESTED IN CO	MPLAINT: JURY DE	MAND: X Yes	□ No	(Check "Yes" o	nly if dem	anded in com	plaint.)	
CLASS ACTION under	الإنكا			MONEY DEMA	NDED EN	COMPLAINT:	\$	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Action for wages under Fair	(Cite the U.S. Civil Status Standards Labor Act	e under which you are	iling and	write a brief stateme	nt of cause. I	Do not cite jurisdi	Ctional statu	tes unless diversity.)
VII. NATURE OF SUIT	Place an X in one bo	x only).			177			
			C		£20070		a ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang an	
375 False Claims Act 400 State	110 insurance	240 Torts to Land	1 11 1	462 Naturalization Application	I	as Corpus:	☐ 820 Co	pyrights
Reapportionment	120 Marine	Liability	m	465 Other	510 MG	en Detainee Bions to Vacate	830 Pat	
410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking	140 Negotiable	290 All Other Rea Property		mmigration Actions	Senten 530 Ge			demark
450 Commerce/ICC	Instrument 350 Recovery of				☐ 535 De	ath Penalty	■ 861 HIA	(1395ff)
Rates/Etc.	Overpayment & Enforcement of	310 Airplane		370 Other Fraud			1	ck Lung (923)
470 Racketeer Influ-	Judgment	315 Airplane Product Liability	1 1	371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal	540 Ma	ndamus/Other		/C/DIWW (405 (g))
enced & Corrupt Org.	151 Medicare Act	320 Assauft, Libei Slander	r li	Property Damage	555 Pri	son Condition		O Title XVI
480 Consumer Credit	152 Recovery of Defaulted Student		k	385 Property Demage Product Liability	560 CN	() Détainee	[ 000 K2	(405 (g))
490 Cable/Sat TV 550 Securities/Com-	Loan (Excl. Vet.)	340 Marine			Conditi Confine	ment	870 Ta	es (U.S. Plaintiff or
Modities/Exchange	153 Recovery of Overpayment of	345 Marine Produ		122 Appeal 28 USC 158	625 Dru	o Related	□ Defend	
890 Other Statutory Actions	Vet. Benefits — 160 Stockholders'	350 Motor Vehicle		123 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	Seizure USC 88	of Property 21	7609	CONTRACTOR AND CONTRA
891 Agricultural Acts	Suits	355 Motor Vehicle			☐ 690 Ot			
893 Environmental Matters	190 Other Contract	360 Other Persona	l' 1	140 Other Civil Rights				
Act 895 Freedom of Info.	195 Contract	Injury 362 Personal Injury	<u> </u>	I41 Voting	Act	Labor Standards		
896 Arbitration	Product Liability 196 Franchise	─ Med Malpratice		42 Employment 43 Housing/	720 Lab Relation	or/Mgmt, es		
899 Admin. Procedures		Product Liability 367 Health Care/		Accompdations 145 American with	(	Way Labor Act		
Act/Review of Appeal of Agency Decision	210 Land Condemnation	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		disabilities- Imployment	Li Leave A			
950 Constitutionality of	220 Foreclosure	Product Liability  368 Asbestos		46 American with Xsabilities-Other	☐ 290 Oth	er Labor n		
State Statutes	230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	Personal Injury Product Uability	l 1	148 Education		plovee Ret. inc.		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:	Case Number:	CV1	3-	0780				
CV-71 (09/13)	W. d	<u> </u>	VIL COV	ER SHEET		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Page V ed 2
			ĺ	• •				Page 1 of 3

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed from	SOUTH	<b>多花彩。</b>	i si envirgi ng	· Var	10 May 1984 1984 1984 1984 1984 1984 1984 1984	The Street	Tarrana non serva	7.75767429
state court?								
Yes 🗷 No	Los Angeles				Western			
If "no, " go to Question B. If "yes," check the box to the right that applies, enter the	☐ Ventu	ura, Santa Barbara, or San	Luis Obisp	ю		Western		
corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	Orane	g <del>e</del>				Southern		
quality and stop to action with	River	side or San Bernardino				Eastern		
Question B: Is the United States, or one of	1 15 20 5 2		a property.	era tag	<b>不是这个意思的</b>			
its agencies or employees, a party to this action?			No.			e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		
Yes X No								
If "no, " go to Question C. If "yes," check the	Los A	ngeles		Lo	s Angeles	i mendajirik	West	ern
box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to	☐ Ventu	ura, Santa Barbara, or San	Luis		ntura, Santa Barbara, or Sa	Southern Southern		ern
Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	Orang			_	alspo ange			nern
	River	side or San Bernardino	<del></del>	Ri	verside or San Bernardino		Eastern	
	☐ Other	T		_ a	her	Western		ern
majority of plaintiffs reside: Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside: Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:	×							
C.1. is either of the following true? If so, o	check the o	ne that applies:	C.2. Is	either c	f the following true? If s	o. check the	one that applies	
2 or more answers in Column C			Г	_	more answers in Column E			
only 1 answer in Column C and no	answers in	Column D	only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C					
Your case will initially be assigned to the SOUTHERN DIVISION. Enter "Southern" in response to Question D, below.			Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below.					
if none applies, answer ques	ition C2 to ti	he right.			If none applies, go	to the box i	pelow.	
		Your case will i WES Enter "Western" in r	TERN DIVIS	ION.				
				***************************************				
Enter the initial division determined by Ques	ition A, B, or	Cabove:	200					
CV-71 (09/13)	**************************************	CIVII	. COVER S	HEET			D=	ge 2 of 3

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

IX(a). IDENTICAL CAS	SES: Has this act	tion been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?	ĭ NO	☐ YES
If yes, list case numb	per(s):			
IX(b). RELATED CASES	S: Have any case	es been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?	X NO	☐ YES
If yes, list case numb	per(s):			
Civil cases are deemed r	related if a previo	usly filed case and the present case:		
(Check all boxes that appl	ly) 🔲 A. Arise i	from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or		
	B. Call fo	r determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact	or	
	C. For ot	her reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or		
		e the same patent, trademark or copyright <u>, and</u> one of the factors identified above in a		ent.
other papers as required by i	law. This form, ap ne Court for the pu	Civil Cover Sheet and the Information contained herein neither replace nor supplement proved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required prose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instruction in the civil docket sheet) are more detailed instructions.	users and to Local I	Dula 3 1 ta mak 61 and
Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action		
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))	Security Act, as a of services under	mended. Also, the program.
862	8L	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Hea 923)	lth and Safety Act	of 1969. (30 U.S.C.
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))	e Social Security A	ict, as amended; plus
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))	litle 2 of the Socia	I Security Act, as
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed unamended.	der Title 16 of the	Social Security Act, as
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Se (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))	curity Act, as ame	ended.

CV-71 (09/13)

ISE 2.13-CV-07805-DDP-JCG Ducument	II. Filed 10/22/13 Page 24 0/24 Page	
AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action		
United Sta	TES DISTRICT COURT	
Centra	District of California	
DR. ALLEN PANZER, AMY SAYERS, LILY JEUNG and DARREN WALCHESKY, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated	) ) )	
Plaintiff(s) v. YELP, INC.	Civil Action <b>G.V 13 - 078</b>	05-b
Defendant(s)	_ )	
SUMMON	S IN A CIVIL ACTION	
To: (Defendant's name and address) YELP, INC. 140 NEW MONTGOI SAN FRANCISCO C		·
A lawsuit has been filed against you.		
are the United States or a United States agency, or an P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff a	∮q.	ed. R. Civ. Rule 12 of
If you fail to respond, judgment by default w You also must file your answer or motion with the co	ll be entered against you for the relief demanded in the art.	complaint.
Date: 0CT 2 2 2013	CLERK OF COURT  A Clerk of Clerk or Deputy	

.